

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

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APPROVED BY AF/ C - JAMES A. PARKER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

S E C R E T STATE 053458

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, CG

SUBJECT: ZAIRE EVENTS

FOR AF/ C DIRECTOR COHEN

1. PRINCIPAL NEWS IS MOBUTU' S REPORTED CANCELLATION OF HIS TRIP TO ALGERIA (HE NOW WILL BE RETURNING TO KINSHASA MARCH 26). KINSHASA' S 2305 PROVIDES SOME BACKGROUND AND YOU MAY WISH DISCUSS IN DEPTH WITH EMBASSY. THIS DEVELOPMENT AND ITS BACKGROUND IS OF COURSE PERTINENT TO EMBASSY' S RECENT ANALYSIS OF MOBUTU' S ORIENTATION.

2. ANOTHER SUBJECT YOU MAY WISH DISCUSS IN DETAIL IS SITUATION ALONG ANGOLAN FRONT. LISBON AND LUANDA HAVE RECENTLY REPORTED PORTUGUESE SUGGESTIONS THAT EX- KATANGESE IN ANGOLA GROWING RESTIVE AT MOBUTU" S SO- CALLED RADICAL DRIFT AND ANXIOUS TO INFILTRATE ZAIRE TO TAKE UP FIGHT AGAINST HIM. EMBASSY HAS COMMENTE ON THESE REPORTS AND THEIR PROBABLE EFFECT UPON MOBUTU.

3. IF YOU HAVE OCCASION, YOU SHOULD TRY TO DETERMINE HOW GULF SEES LOCAL SITUATION, AS COMPARED WITH ORTIZ' S VIEW FROM WASHINGTON.

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4. ECON DEVELOPMENTS.

A. AMBASSADOR HAS REPORTED TO EXIM MOBUTU' S REACTION TO COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT FINANCING. IN REPLY, EXIM HAS DRAWN ATTENTION TO REQUEST FOR ECONOMIC JUSTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY FOR MIX WHICH MIGHT INCLUDE THREE DIFFERENT TYPES OF AIRCRAFT.

B. WE NEED SOME CLARIFICATION RE EMBASSY POSITION ON OPIC FINANCING FOR EMBASSY HOUSING. OPIC PREPARED CONSIDER GRANTING INSURANCE (AGAINST POLITICAL RISK) BUT INITIAL REACTION FROM GOZ TO THIS SORT OF INSINUATION HAS EVIDENTLY LED THEM TO WITHDRAW IT. WHAT IS CURRENT STATUS? IT IS UNLIKELY THAT KALACAK CAN GET FINANCING, AND EMBASSY ITS QUARTERS, WITHOUT SUCH A GUARANTEE. ROGERS

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